



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

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club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Annual Meeting Nov. 17



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421

See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Rick Gardiner, VE1RGG		ve1rgg@rac.ca
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Treasurer - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	ve1cdd@rac.ca
Member at Large, Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Club Station Mgr. - Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK		ve1phk@rac.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	832-3660	ve1wph@rac.ca
IPARN and Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager - Bob Burns, VE1VCK	865-9414	ve1vck@rac.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@is.dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Membership - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Callbook 04 Editor Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Flea market 2004 Chair' man - NEEDED		
Field Day coordinator - NEEDED		
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM,	860-1580	ve1wjrm@rac.ca
NSARA Director - Joe MacPherson, VE1CH		ve1ch@rac.ca
Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia - Bev Reynolds, VE1TL		



Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes.
This will be the rotation.

If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.

Nov.	14	Pierre	VE1PTR
Nov.	21	Tom	VE1GTC
Nov.	28	Doug	VE1LDL
Dec.	5	Herb	VE1HX
Dec.	12	Dave	VE1EDA
Dec.	19	Charles	VE1MCR
Dec.	26	Chris	VA1CDB
Jan.	2	Herb	VE1HX
Jan.	9	Pierre	VE1PTR
Jan.	16	Tom	VE1GTC

The **Annual Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday, November 17, 2004 at 1930 hours (7:30 PM), at the former Bloomfield School building (corner of Almon and Agricola streets). The meeting will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. Please be there to elect our executive for 2004/2005.

Guests are welcome.

The **Basic ham course** this fall is being coordinated by Howard Dickson, VE1DHD.

The course began Sept. 9, 2004.

He can be contacted at 823-2024, or dhickson@hfx.eastlink.ca

GENERAL INFORMATION



TAKE-15 NET: Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on VE1PSR/VHF

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR/VHF - 147.270 MHz +
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz +
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

PACKET:

VE1NSD 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS
accessible through the LAN

See www.aidrac.ca

The HRM EMO/ham Advisory
Committee Web page is at
www.ve1hre.ca

**Deadline for submissions to the
January Reflector is
Saturday, Jan.. 8, 2005**

Ever wonder what the speed of lightning would be if it didn't zigzag?

Events for Your Calendar

December 15 - Christmas party

February – Ham Breakfast

June 4, 2005 –

DownEast Flea Market

August 13&14,. 2005 -MS Bike Tour

The 6th annual Search & Rescue Competition will take place Sept. 9 to 11, **2005**. Club co-ordinators for a special event station are Dick, VE1AI, and Scott, VE1QD.

Christmas Party

Location: Dragon Buffet

King, Bayers Lake

Date: December 15 2004

Time 7:00 pm

Cost:

under 60 years \$13.05 tax included

over 60 years \$ 12.37 Tax included

Drinks are extra coffee tea and pop are free refillable

The number of over and under 60 must be given to the Dragon King by DEC 08 so please contact Tom and Betty at 477-7081 and tell us which group you fall into; Email tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

Each person will receive a separate bill, be sure to tell waiter if you are over or under 60 years of age.

Anyone wishing to supply door prizes please contact Tom, VE1GTC, so we will have an idea of what will be arriving that night.

VE1GTC will be listening on 147.270 + for anyone needing directions to the location.

David, VE1EDA conducts an **EMO NET** each Sunday evening at 1930 local (7:30 PM).

The goal of the net is to keep all Amateur's informed on any news about EMO and to increase the interest in emergency preparedness.

An emergency preparedness event is being planned.

Tune into the Net for more information.



A Basic Ham Class
2004/2005 is being run by
HARC



Where: the Training Room at the Knightsbridge Fire Hall in Clayton Park

When: Thursday evenings at 7PM (1900 hours)

A CW class is being conducted by Gary, VE1RGB.



CW Music: Andrew Crawford, former 2004 class member now VE1VAC has produced some really interesting music to help learn CW. If you go to his website <http://www.cognimetric.com/acrawford/codemusic>

you can download his MP3 file. I think that this is one of the most novel ideas for amateur radio that I have ever seen.

Howard - VE1DHD

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, #41 October 15, 2004

RAC Board appoints new President, First Vice President: Radio Amateurs of Canada has announced that Earle Smith, VE6NM, is the RAC's new president, and John Iliffe, VE3CES/VA3JI, is the organization's new First Vice President. Smith and Iliffe will fill the remaining terms of Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, and Bob Nash, VE3KZ, respectively, which run through next year. Lamoureux and Nash stepped down recently for medical reasons. Smith and Iliffe were appointed by the RAC Board of Directors during a special meeting October 12. Smith has been the RAC Director for the Alberta/Northwest Territories/Nunavut Region. The RAC Board will announce a new director soon.

It seems odd to me that this announcement reached me via the ARRL. Did I miss RAC's notice to RAC members? -ed.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

Anderson Powerpole connectors are now **sold out**. If you have not already converted all your gear to Powerpole connectors you should consider doing so. Place orders with Tom Caithness, VE1GTC by E-mail at: tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

If there is enough demand we will order more. We need to order in lots of over 200 to be able to offer them at the best price. Please place orders by November so we can estimate how many more to buy. Tom, VE1GTC still has some available from another source but we **may** need to charge up to \$1.50 (normally \$1.25) each (for a red and black connector for one complete end). To make a complete mating pair will require 2 connectors.

Puzzler – Do You Know?

What is the purpose of audio de-emphasis in an FM receiver?

Answer on page 3

The **Club station** is a good space for ham radio activities but **please reserve your date & time** with Station Manager Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK (E-mail ve1phk@rac.ca) This is to prevent the disappointment of arriving at the Club Station and finding someone else has booked it for the same time you wanted to use it. **So booking with Pat is a must!!**

The next IARU Administrative Council meeting is set for September 17-18, 2005, in Switzerland following the IARU Region 1 Conference.

Information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>

HARC t-shirts & caps (royal blue embroidered with the HARC crest) can be purchased from our stock Ball Caps @ \$10 each T-shirts @ \$15 each



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE October 2004

The weather is getting colder and the days shorter, unfortunately this means winter is coming. Hopefully you have all your antenna work done - I don't. Another club year is winding down and it has been a successful year with many club activities. I hope you will make an effort in 2005 to be more active in your club. If you think something may be of interest to the club members then send it along to Lynn, VE1ENT for inclusion in the Reflector. If you see something on the club web site that needs to be changed or added, let Rob, VE1KS know. The executive tries to look after the day to day operations of the club but it is you the member that must make the club active. I hope to see many members at the Annual General meeting this month.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

NET CONTROLLERS

There has not been a stampede to take on the position of net controller. Is it perhaps time to shut down the Take-15 net? Personally I find it useful to keep up with club events especially those that arise after a newsletter has been published and will be happening before the next newsletter. Announcements of special interest and breaking news in the Amateur Community are also aired there.

If you have any thoughts on the subject please contact me by phone or E-mail. I am still hoping to get one or two more net controllers for the roster. Ideally 4 or 5 more controllers would stretch the rotation to once every 3 months.

Thank you for reading.

Bill Elliott, VE1MR
Phone - 865-8567
E-mail - ve1mr@rac.ca

Answer to puzzler on page 2

What is the purpose of audio de-emphasis in an FM receiver?

Answer: As a natural result of FM modulation, the audio frequencies are sent with a boost of 3 dB per octave, meaning that the higher audio frequencies are sent at a higher level than the lower ones. On reception, the audio must be de-emphasized by the same amount to have the audio come out sounding like the original. With no de-emphasis the audio will sound thin and scratchy.

ARRL Field Day 2004

Congratulations to all who participated in the Halifax ARC Field Day this past year. Not only did we take top honours in the 2A class but we are the top Canadian entry in 2004 with 8888 points. Our overall standing in Field Day is #60 up from #169 last year when we were in 2F class.

We beat out the Durham Region QRP Club, VE3QRD who were in the 5A battery class with 8245 points. The third place in Canada goes to the Mississauga ARC, VE3MIS in the 9A class with 7884 points. The 4th place in Canada is the Oakville ARC, VE3HB in 2A class with 7246 points, an extremely good showing in the 2A class, tough competition for us.

The 2 F plaque that we sponsor goes to the Wells Gray & Thompson River ARC with 2894 points in the 2F class.

Now to determine what we are doing for 2005, planning should start in the next month or so.

73 - Bill, VE1MR

"Cats are rather delicate creatures and they are subject to a good many ailments, but I never heard of one who suffered from insomnia."
-- Joseph Wood Krutch

Where to get Callbooks

The Maritime Provinces Callbook 2004 is available at Cohoon's Appliance Service at 109 Ilsley Ave. in Burnside Industrial park during their open hours of 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday and Saturdays 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

If you hear someone from out of town asking where they can get a callbook then this is probably their best bet on short notice.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 42, ARISS "SUITSAT" POSSIBILITIES

If plans come together in time, an outdated Russian spacesuit could become the most unusual Amateur Radio satellite ever put into orbit. Being called "SuitSat" for now, the idea, is from ARISS-Russia's Sergei Samburov, RV3DR. With diminishing stowage space aboard the ISS, several Orlan spacesuits used for space walks have been declared surplus. Samburov's notion is to have an ISS crew equip one of them as an Amateur Radio satellite and launch it during a space walk in less than a year.

Ideas include an onboard camera, a downlink transmitter, temperature and radiation sensors, a beacon, a text-to-speech voice synthesizer so SuitSat could "speak" to students from data uplinked via packet, a full-duplex repeater and a GPS receiver to track SuitSat as it orbits Earth. The Orlan suits are pressurized, thermally protected, and roomy. ARISS is soliciting ideas from the Amateur Radio community on what to include.

DX n' HF

This month our DX n' HF column is a report from Uruguay where I am living and working in Montevideo for 2 ½ months. This is the region of South America called *Cono Sur*, or the Southern Cone. Look at a map and you will get the idea. Buenos Aires is just a two-hour ferry ride across the very wide mouth of the Rio de la Plata, and it is almost due east from Santiago on the other side of the Andes Mountains. It is a lovely spring in Montevideo at 34 S and 56 W. The other day the temperature hit 32 C, clearly announcing that summer is on its way.

Working QRP. My hotel is a block from the beach. From my third floor room, I have run wire up the side of the 9-story building and between two chimneys that are 60 feet apart. This long wire serves me both for short wave listening and for propagating a mighty 4 watts on 20, 30 and 40 meters CW with my palm sized Elecraft KX1. It is a marvel of compact, feature-loaded technology, including an automatic antenna tuner.

After instant success in operating the KX1 from my QTH on St. Margaret's Bay, I have been surprised how hard it is to make a lot of contacts from here. I can think of four factors that may explain it? **First**, radio conditions have often been poor as we approach the bottom of the sunspot cycle. Things do pick up on good days. **Second**, the level of radio activity is not as high as in North America and Europe. This may in part be a function of lower incomes. **Third**, there is a marked preference for voice operations, particularly 80, 40 and 10 meters. That CW is not popular seems to be confirmed by an informal survey of Radiogrupo Sur I conducted over more than a few beers after a recent Club meeting. Of the Club's most active members, there are only a handful that use CW regularly. **Finally**, I have been

spoiled using a big station with good antennas. I'll just have to get over it and work harder and smarter! This is what QRPing is about.

Having said this, I have had fun making contacts with stations in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay, including a nice contact with Oscar, LU2XX at the Argentine Antarctic Base. Many of the stations in the region also use Spanish on CW, offering me an additional challenge. So far I have not been able to work outside of the region, although I can hear signals from North America, Europe and Asia at various times.

Radiogrupo Sur. For several years now, I have been a corresponding member of this radio club, only visiting, however, for a couple of weeks at a time. Since I arrived in September I have been able to attend their weekly get together on Wednesday evenings. Their club location is in the third floor of an old building of flats near the University in downtown Montevideo. They have a number of rooms: a large board room for the meetings and for running their ham radio course; an office; a room for the club station; a kitchen and several rooms that house the *Guglielmo Marconi Amateur Radio Museum of Uruguay*. This seems to be the final resting place for old, hard used gear in this country. They also operate local repeaters on 6, 2 and ¾ meters that cover the larger Montevideo area, and they publish a quarterly magazine: *QSO: Publicacion informativa para Radioaficionados*. They are a very active group of hams.

One very different aspect of amateur radio here is that the CBers are included in the Club and seem to conform to the same standards of operating. The 11 meter band is regarded here as a first step for many,

if not most people, to getting a ham license. This band actually works very well for communications around the densely populated coastal area between Uruguay and Argentina. Once up grading to a ham license has occurred, many just move over to the spacious spectrum available on 10 meters. One also finds that 80 and 40 meters are full of modest stations engaged in local and regional conversations and no apparent interest in DX. Linguistic barriers are also likely a factor in operating choice.

Like HARC, this club represents a large cross-section of people, united by a common interest in amateur radio. They are a talented group of people who, because of very different levels of wealth and resources, must be very innovative. Their technical ability and talent for scrounging needed materials reminds me of the way we all functioned as hams some years ago. What they accomplish is remarkable. There is a spirit of comradeship and mutual assistance that is very attractive.

I have found only two people in the club who actually speak English at a level sufficient to carry on a conversation of substance. Yet, many of them are operating on the DX bands and in contests with just enough English to do the job! Shouldn't we all learn as much Spanish?

Contesting Uruguay Style. The Club's big project currently has been the assembly of a major contest station on a piece of land donated by one of the members. It is located about 50 km North of Montevideo. During part of almost every weekend, a number of the members work on the building and the antennas. It is an impressive installation that was used for the first time at the end of October during the CQ WW SSB Contest. I was a part of their team.

The Club's antenna farm – *El parque*

(Continued on page 5)

HARC Executive Nominating Committee 2005

November has once again found me seeking members to fill the Executive positions for another year.... it doesn't get any easier it seems!

I've been on the podium far too often to believe that you will be pummelled into submission. No! Not in my lifetime and possibly in yours will that happen.

So, what can I do? Beg? Yep, that's it. Beg!

If you are receiving this newsletter, then you are a member and have seen fit to at least support HARC through your membership. That's great! Membership is the heart of organizations such as this. That is only the first step, though.

Organizations like HARC need direction or guidance provided by a few members each year. Guess what? That's you! So **PLEASE** help your club out this year.

I **BEG** you to get in touch with me if you or someone you know will take on any of the executive positions. In particular, there is an urgent need for a treasurer.

(GROVEL, GROVEL...)

See you at the November meeting and ...

Awaiting your call,

Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ (@rac.ca), 860-4454

Position	Name
President	Bill Elliott (VE1MR)
1st Vice President	Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO)
2nd Vice President	Darryll Perrin (VE1HUP)
Secretary	Howard Dickson (VE1DHD)
Treasurer	VACANT
Station Manager	Pat Kavanaugh (VE1PHK)
Member at Large	Tom Caithness (VE1GTC)

(DX n' HF Continued from page 4)

de Antenas – has a multiband yagi for 40 – 10 meters on a 25 meter tower; five element monobanders for 15 and 20 meters; stacked yagis for 10 meters; and inverted V antennas for 160 and 80. Two operation rooms have been set up in the building with two full stations each, including linears. Quite a mix of equipment, I might add, including some strong candidates for the museum. The building has a big workshop area, kitchen, lounge and sleeping area. Not fancy, but it all works.

I discovered how the lack of English might actually provide the Uruguayans with a competitive advantage in contesting! What, you say? None of the operators like to allow enough time between contacts for questions or comments they do not understand so they just move right along in a contest. I do not yet know what our score was,

Whether to 2-Alpha or to 2-Foxtrot – that is the question!

The HARC Executive pondered this question on Wednesday evening. Of course it was Field Day 2005 that was being discussed and our long-standing success in the 2-Alpha class on the one hand, and the commitment of HARC to the HRM-EMO on the other left the Executive in somewhat of a quandary. As a result, we thought that this issue needed to be brought to the full membership. The question that you will be asked on November 17th is, do you favour our Club taking part in the 2005 Field Day as a 2-Alpha station – this means setting up at the usual Tantallon site, or, would you like to see us alternate this year and go to the EMO site in Dartmouth and run 2-Foxtrot from the EOC as we did in 2003?

There are clearly pros and cons to both. On the one hand, Field Day is much more fun if we get out into the wilds of Halifax County and rough it for the weekend. The 2-Alpha category necessitates this approach. It also keeps us sharp and in practice when it comes to setting up a complete three-station operation in less than 24 hours in the middle of nowhere. On the other hand, our Club has made a strong commitment to Emergency Measures in Halifax. In fact, the EMO pays the rent on our Club Station – how many of you knew that? The EMO facilities in Dartmouth provide us with a different opportunity to test our skills. There we must set up antennas and radios in a much different, yet challenging environment.

The Halifax Amateur Radio Club sponsors two Field Day trophies – one for the 2-Alpha category and the other for the 2-Foxtrot category. We have won the 2-Alpha every time that we have worked that category in recent memory. When we ran 2-Foxtrot in 2003 for the first time, we won that one too. If we alternate annually between 2-Alpha and 2-Foxtrot, we do two things. Firstly, we give another Club a chance to win one or the other of the two trophies each year; secondly, we maintain our skills in establishing radio communication from a field site as well as from the EOC, and there is a good likelihood that we will be called upon to do one of the other, or perhaps both, in a "No Duff" situation in the future.

Howard Dickson – VE1DHD, HARC Secretary

but there were well over 5,000 contacts with well over 100 countries. Ten meters – to everyone's surprise and delight – was the hottest band. There wasn't much sleep for two days, nor was the dining anything like Chez Jim, VE1JF – but it was all fun. A highlight for me was working Fraser, VE1WO and Dick, VE1AI. I think I will save a few stories for another occasion, maybe a presentation at a HARC meeting this winter, with slides. See you all at the Christmas Party. Chao!

73 de Scott, VE1QD.

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the General Monthly
Meeting of Wednesday,
October 20, 2004**

President Bill (VE1MR) called the meeting to order at 1937 with 38 members in attendance.

Executive in attendance:

Bill Elliott (VE1MR) – President; Dick Grantham (VE1AI) Past-president; Fraser MacDougall (VE1WO) – First Vice-president; Howard Dickson (VE1DHD) – Secretary; Pat Kavanaugh (VE1PHK) – Station Manager; Tom Caithness (VE1GTC) – Member at Large.

Regrets: Second Vice-president – Rick Gardner (VE1RGG); John Goodwin (VE1CDD) – Treasurer

Silent Keys: None reported.

Guests: VE1PB – Phil Bentley of Upper Tantallon and Ed Butler; Ken McKenzie, Ralph Rozere, and Jason Humphrey – Associate Member and Basic Amateur Radio Course members; Heather Watters – M.S. Society Representative.

Minutes of the monthly meeting of September 15, 2004:

Approval of the minutes of the September Monthly Meeting as published in the October 2004 Reflector was moved by Jim (VE1JIM) and seconded by Jim (VE1SFX) – Motion carried.

Executive Reports:

Treasurer's – In the absence of John (VE1CDD), Bill (VE1MR) reported a bank balance of \$7,047.88 as of October 17th, with October expenses of \$511.94, income of \$1,147.60 and outstanding cheques in the amount of \$193.20. Approval of the Treasurer's report was moved by Win (VE1WIN) and seconded by Jim (VE1SFX). With no further discussion, the motion carried. Copy of the monthly report of the Treasurer is appended to the hard-copy of these minutes.

Secretary – Howard (VE1DHD) reported on a very enjoyable and successful JOTA Saturday at the Boy Scout Camp Harris on the Minesville

Rd. in Lawrencetown. Howard, along with Dick (VE1AI), Win (VE1WIN) and Andrew (VE1VAC), established and operated an HF station and a 2-metre IRLP station. They had great success in educating the Scouts about Amateur Radio and in making contacts. One Korean Scout was ecstatic at being able to talk with a Ham in South Korea on the IRLP network. Howard also reported on the continuing success of the 2004/2005 Basic Ham Class that is being run by HARC. The registration number has now risen to 23, with one of the students – Andrew Crawford – having already written and passed his exam. Andrew is now licensed as VE1VAC. Howard asked Gary (VE1RGB) to comment on the CW classes that he is running. Gary mentioned that the CW classes are now being held on Monday evenings at the Club Station and currently five students are working on their 5-WPM certificates.

President – President Bill reported that he had completed changes to the controller on the 2-metre VE1PSR repeater at Cowie Hill. He also returned the 70cm VE1PSR repeater. Work still needs to be carried out to bring the 6-metre repeater up to standards.

First Vice-president – Nothing to report.

Second Vice-president – In the absence of Rick (VE1RGG), President Bill informed the membership that Wayne (VE1WPH) was unable to make it to the meeting this evening because of work commitments and so there would be a social evening following the formal meeting instead of a guest speaker. He also indicated that the Door Prize for the evening would be a compact flash-light.

Past-president – Dick (VE1AI) reiterated his enthusiasm for the JOTA event that the Club had participated in. He recommended that the Club continue to be involved in this JOTA event in future years, and suggested that the Club invest in a cable

to allow for the interfacing of a small amplifier to the Club FT-990 radio. Dick also reminded Club members of the CQ-WW-SSB contest coming up at the end of October and mentioned that several Club members (Dick – VE1AI; Howard – VE1DHD; and Fraser – VE1WO) were making plans to travel to Victoria Beach to work the VE1JF Super Contest Station that weekend.

Station Manager - Pat (VE1PHK) requested assistance from the Membership in putting together an antenna party to work on the Club antennas on the roof of the Bloomfield Centre. There is a particular need to repair the storm-damaged satellite antenna system and the HF vertical antenna before the weather becomes too inclement. Pat will set a date for the work and announce it on the net for Club members.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee – Bob (VE1PQ) reported to the Membership as Chair of the Nominating Committee. He thanked current members of the Executive who were letting their names stand for 2005, and indicated that he was having difficulty identifying someone to assume the role of Club Treasurer for 2005. Bob asked that anyone interested in making a contribution to the Club in this important area contact him as soon as possible.

Membership – Tom (VE1GTC) reported that as of this evening there were 32 paid up members for 2005; current 2004 membership stands at 132.

Search & Rescue – Dave (VE1AJP) reported on a very busy month with Search & Rescue, with a major involvement in the recent crash of a 747-cargo plane at the end of the runway of the Halifax International Airport. First respondents were unaware that the downed plane was a cargo plane and were shocked and relieved at the same time to find mainly dead fish and lobster on the ground and in

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Minutes (Continued from page 6)

the trees, and not hundreds of people had this been a commercial passenger flight.

EMO – As a follow-up to this S&R report, Dave (VE1AJP) again reminded Radio Amateurs that they should always be prepared for an emergency where their services might be required. "Keep those battery packs charged" was his parting message.

Callbook Sales – Fraser (VE1WO) reported the sale of 14 Callbooks at the Greenwood Flea Market on the weekend of October 16. There have now been 874 books sold out of the 1200 book press run, with 326 remaining to be sold.

Christmas Party – Tom reported that the Christmas Party will take place on December 15th and the planning is still underway, with the location yet to be determined. There was however general consensus that a Chinese buffet was preferable and a location with good parking was preferred as well. The likely spot will be in Bayer's Lake Business Park. Stay tuned!

Ham Breakfast – Bill reported that Lynn (VE1ENT) has agreed to organise the 2005 Ham Breakfast. It will be held at the Steak & Stein on Young St., mid to late February. The exact date will be announced soon.

NSARA Annual General Meeting – Tom (VE1TA) reported on a successful meeting for NSARA in conjunction with the Greenwood Flea Market on the 16th of October. There were members from all parts of the province present. Tom informed the meeting that NSARA had agreed to fund the Westcumb ARC terrestrial link thereby further enhancing the provincial Amateur Radio grid. Tom also mentioned that the Bowaters Mersey Pulp and Paper Company have agreed to turn over to the NSARA the whole of their UHF/VHF linking system, which covers from Hammonds Plain to Yarmouth. This will make a tremendous addition to the provincial Amateur Radio grid and will move NSARA towards its

objective of having complete provincial 2-metre coverage from CB to Yarmouth. Tom completed his report by reminding the HARC membership to renew their NSARA memberships, and he reported that the 2005 Executive for NSARA will be – President – Tom (VE1TA); Treasurer – Shirley (VE1JFG); Secretary – Bruce Harvey (VE1II); and 1st V-P Jim Hannon (VE1AFH).

Old Business:

Auditor for 2004 Appointed – Bill informed the membership that Matt Boyle (VE1BSG) had agreed to serve as the Auditor for the 2004 books. Bill thanked Matt for his assistance in this important Club activity.

New Business:

M. S. Society Presentation - Heather Watters was invited to address the membership and to make presentations to seven members who have assisted over the years with the MS Bike Tour. Heather reiterated the important role that Radio Amateurs have played over the years in providing communication for the MS Bike Tour, and just how much the Society appreciates that support. The 2004 Tour raised \$281,571 and this represents the second largest fund-raising event that the Society holds in Atlantic Canada. This year there were over 50 volunteers who assisted by contributing over 400 person-hours to the ride, while 350 bikers covered over 160 km during the two-day event. In recognition of the invaluable contributions of volunteers, the MS Society has instituted a 5-year "Heart in Hand Award". Heather made presentations to the following 7 Radio Amateurs: Lynn Bowser – VE1ENT (5 years); George Barbour - VE1GAB (5 years); Rod Padmore – VE1BSK (6 years); Hal Rodd – VE1LV (6 years); Bill Elliott – VE1MR (7 years); Terry Bigelow – VE1TRB (8 years); Rick Gardner – VE1RGG (15 years). Heather informed the audience that Rick is now a major force on the MS Bike Tour Planning Committee and without Rick, and

the other HARC volunteers, this event just could not get off the ground.

SCOM Controller – Bill invited Rob (VE1KS) to report on the planned use of the old SCOM controller from VE1HNS (146.940). Since this controller is no longer needed in Halifax, Rob proposed using it for a new solar-powered repeater that was being planned for Kejimikujik Park. The Keji Board has approved the project and is keen to work with Radio Amateurs and HARC to enhance radio coverage in the Park. Moved by Rob (VE1KS) and seconded by Dave (VE1NN) that the HAR Club donate the used SCOM controller to the NSARA to be used in the Keji Repeater project. With the assurance that this repeater controller will not be of any use as a back-up at the VE1HNS site, the motion was approved.

Power Pole Connectors – The Club has now sold almost all of the 500 universal Power Pole connectors that were purchased last year. The discussion concerned the need to order additional connectors. The purchase break-point seems to be at 200 units and a motion was made by Bob (VE1PQ) and seconded by Dick (VE1AI) to maintain a stock of connectors on hand and to re-order when the stock falls below 50 connectors. The motion was approved.

Amplifier Cable for FT-990 – Dick (VE1AI) moved, and Win (VE1WIN) seconded a motion to have the Club either purchase or build a cable to allow a linear amplifier to be interfaced to the Club FT-990 radio. Motion carried.

Field Day 1999 DVD – Jim (VE1SFX) requested that the membership give him feedback on the three versions of the 1999 Field Day video that he shot and has now converted to DVD format. Howard (VE1DHD) indicated that he had viewed the video; two other copies are with Dave (VE1NN) and John (VE1CDD) but have yet to be evaluated. Jim can be reached at VE1SFX@eastlink.ca.

Industry Canada Accredited Examiners – President Bill reported on the recommendation of the Executive that the names of Rob (VE1KS) and Dave (VE1NN) be forwarded to Industry Canada as individuals with the necessary qualifications and commitment to become IC-accredited examiners for Amateur Radio licensing. Howard (VE1DHD) moved and Jim (VE1JIM) seconded a motion for the Club to support the recommendation that these two individuals be named as IC accredited examiners. Motion carried.

RAC Report – Dave (VE1NN) reported on the recent resignation of the RAC President and First V-P, and their replacements. There was also a discussion of the failure of the RAC Board to accept the nomination of Bill Gillis for the position of RAC Atlantic Director.

Door Prize - was a compact flashlight and was won by John (VE1WS).

50:50 Draw – the draw (\$25.50) was won by Pat (VE1PHK).

The formal meeting adjourned on a motion by Lynn (VE1ENT) at 2102.

In the absence of Wayne (VE1WPH) the planned speaker for the evening, an informal Social Hour followed.

Respectfully submitted by
Howard Dickson, VE1DHD, Secretary

NOW THERE'S DX !

Scientists and astronomers associated with the SETI@home project looking for extraterrestrial intelligence are intrigued by a mysterious radio signal received on a frequency of about 1420 MHz. The RF seems to be coming from a void between the constellations Pisces and Aries where there is no obvious star within 1000 light years.

Named SHGb02+14a, the signal could be nothing more than an astronomical phenomenon, but it's said to be different from the radio signals generated by any other known object.

I wonder if this was the same group of scientists who discovered an unidentified signal on 2450 mHz which appeared briefly once a day around 5 pm. It turned out to be their cafeteria microwave.

Rob VE1KS

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 41, October 15, 2004

The ARRL **DXCC** Desk has approved these operations for DXCC credit: 9U6PM, Burundi, effective August 20, 2004; ZS8MI, Prince Edward & Marion Island, April 1-May 9, 2004. A new feature, "DXCC Frequently Asked Questions" <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/faq/>>, can answer most questions about the DXCC program. For more information, visit the DXCC Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>>. Current ARRL DX bulletins are available on the W1AW DX Bulletins for 2004 page <<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/dx/>>.

*You shouldn't compare yourself to others -
they are more screwed up than you think.*

Halifax Amateur Radio Club MEMBERSHIP For Year _____

Please check ☐ Same address as last year ☐ New address ☐ I would like newsletter as PDF E-Mail
(Please note, by taking the newsletter online you save the club significant mailing & printing costs)

E-Mail address _____

Callsign _____ Previous Callsign (if applicable) _____

First Name	Initial	Surname

Mailing Address _____

City/Town _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____ Telephone _____

Fees: ☐ Full Member; must be a licensed amateur (\$25.00) ☐ Associate member (Non Voting) (\$15.00)

☐ Family Membership (1 newsletter) = \$25 (+ \$10 for each additional family member at the same address;)

Amount submitted \$ _____ card _____ entered _____

Stories Wanted

Chris Mills, son of Eric Mills VE1AST, (one of the top DX operators) is looking for Ham Radio stories connected with any lighthouse.

Chris is a founder of the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Preservation Society and is editor of the *Lightkeeper*, their publication. He would like to use these stories in that publication. One can email him at

ketch@ns.sympatico.ca

or snail mail to

Chris Mills, 1121 Ketch Harbour Rd,
Ketch Harbour, N.S. B3V 1K7

Fred Archibald VE1FA and I managed to get some Ham Radio in the September issue of the *Lightkeeper*. I managed to mention the Halifax Club and it would be a great way to make the Club known with a few more short stories.

Spud Roscoe VE1BC

Hi Gary; Class and HARC Executive:

Andrew Crawford - former 2004 class member now VE1VAC has produced some really interesting music to help learn CW. If you go to his website - <http://www.cognimetric.com/acrawford/codemusic> you can download his MP3 file. I think that this is one of the most novel ideas for amateur radio that I have ever seen.

Howard - VE1DHD

2005 KCARC February CW Contest

Visit the KCARC Web site for contest rules.

<http://www.kcarc.ns.ca>

Bet you didn't know:

*It is possible to lead a cow upstairs...
but not downstairs.*

*A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no
one knows why.*

RAC's web site is **www.rac.ca**

From the Mail Bag

on the subject of "NSARA Funding support for Salem Repeater"

We the members of the WESTCUMB ARC wish to express our gratitude to the NSARA for their support in the Salem repeater project. Without the material, financial and technical support from NSARA, this and other repeater sites throughout the province would only be a wish. Having direct contact with the Province of Nova Scotia in the planning and access of repeater sites is a privilege only dreamt of in other parts of Canada. Once again, thank-you for all your dedication to the Amateur radio community.

73, Jim Hannon, Westcumb ARC
Repeater group.

If you are interested (and I know lot of amateur radio operators do own scanners and they do listen to other radio communication) then here is an interesting Canadian link. It's airport traffic communication.

<http://www.canairradio.com/>

This group recently initiated a program called 'YYZ Airport Watch'. This basically let the members of this scanner group have extra eyes for the security while enjoying their hobby.

Encouraging thing is that the airport authorities are positive about this program and looking forward to working with this group and take the advantage of the scanner listeners' technical knowledge in their own field. See the detail at their newsletter on the following link.

<http://www.canairradio.com/airportwatch.html>

73's, Sohail Anjum., VE3ITU

*If all the world's a stage where's
audience sitting?*

Steve Grant, VE1STG, who is sailing south with his wife on "Sea Echo" took our Basic Course last winter so he could get his Ham license for this trip that they were planning.

September Report

I was monitoring 7098 LSB at 9 am until Marion. Last contacted them at Grand Manan and, although I'm not supposed to use that freq. down here I tried several times but couldn't get through. I much regret that I haven't done a thing with CW. Maybe over the winter when we aren't trying to make distance. I haven't had time to check out some of the various cruising nets. Can hear Herb but don't need him at present - or rather, I'm not prepared to invest the time yet. Tried Iron Mike but reception poor. Weather faxes from Boston quite good at giving the big picture to go with the local VHF reports. Any suggestions re. freq. and time to try to make contact? I haven't had a lot of luck with DX contacts. After Gaston passed, we left Marion, MA on 1 Sept. and over the next 5 days made our way down Long Island Sound (LIS) and through New York City (NYC) to Sandy Hook, NJ. It was still too rough to take the more direct route overnight outside Long Island. Leaving LIS into NYC and from NYC harbor to Sandy Hook were two of the most uncomfortable passages of the trip so far due to the 25-35 knot winds against the ± 2 knot tidal currents.

Since arriving in Chesapeake Bay we have slowed our pace. We have visited George Town on the Sassafras River, St. Michaels on the Miles River, Baltimore (to pick up mail, re-provision, install a new hot water tank, purchase a WI FI card for the computer, ride out Jeanne at marina and do some sightseeing) and finally, Annapolis. We plan to be in Norfolk, VA and to enter the ICW (Intracoastal Waterway) before the end of Oct.

Sea Echo (Steve Grant, VE1STG)

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, # 41
ARRL DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS STUDY UNDER WAY

The ARRL Ad-Hoc Committee on Amateur Radio Emergency Service--ARES--Communications (ARESCOM) is seeking the assistance of the amateur community in documenting what digital communications systems now are in use today on the VHF and UHF bands. While the majority of digital communication is via packet, there are many different packet systems in use, and they are interconnected using a variety of methods.

The ARRL Board of Directors has resolved to encourage the deployment of e-mail via Amateur Radio--"as exemplified by Winlink 2000"--to meet the needs of served agencies and others involved in providing disaster communications.

ARESCOM now wants to gather input on systems already in place. "We are seeking input from packet System Administrators as we need information on how the packet nodes are linked and what connectivity methods the packet systems use with systems outside their coverage area," Data collection to wrap up Dec. 31.

The study seeks detailed information on current packet infrastructure. If one person responds on behalf of several system operators (with approval of all). "We ask that names & call signs of all involved be listed,"

To participate download the on-line form <<http://www.arrl.org/digtest/TestSurvey.pdf>>

or <<http://www.arrl.org/digtest/testSurvey.doc>>. After providing all applicable information, submit the survey form via e-mail

<dcti@arrl.org>

or mail to ARRL, DCTI Study, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

Those interested in sharing comments and ideas are invited to subscribe to the DCTI Reflector <DCTI-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>. For more information, visit the ARRL Digital Communications Study Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/digtest>>.

If You Are Scanning You May Run Across **CFARS FALLEX 2004**

It's that time of year once again. I'm passing this on so you are aware of what's going on at the federal level of emergency measures.

CFARS frequencies are specifically assigned frequencies that are just outside certain HF amateur radio bands, but close enough that most ham rigs are able to tune to. Because they are outside the assigned amateur bands, only those licensed to operate through CFARS are permitted to transmit on those frequencies.

Terry R. Bigelow CD CPO2 Ret'd

SUBJECT: CFARS WARNING ORDER 02/2004 - CFARS FALLEX 2004

CFARS WILL CONDUCT A HF COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE AS FOLLOWS: START FRIDAY DECEMBER 03 AT 2230Z
END SUNDAY DECEMBER 05 AT 1600Z.

CFARS FALLEX 2004 SIMULATES THE CFARS RESPONSE TO A SERIES OF EMERGENCIES ACROSS CANADA.

A CFARS DETACHMENT WILL ACT AS NATIONAL NET CONTROL STATION (NNCS) IN A DIRECTED NET AND WILL BE OPERATING FROM 763 (OTTAWA) COMMUNICATIONS REGIMENT CALLSIGN CIW67.

TO PREVENT UNNECESSARY CONCERN ALL STATIONS WILL EMPHASIZE WHEN IN VOICE OR DIGITAL MODES THAT THIS IS A CFARS COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE ONLY. ALL EXERCISE MESSAGE TRAFFIC WILL BE IDENTIFIED BY INSERTING THE WORDS QUOTE CFARS EXERCISE EXERCISE UNQUOTE AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE MESSAGE TEXT.

8. THIS TYPE OF EXERCISE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO CFARS AS WE FOCUS MORE ON OUR DOMESTIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES UNDER THE SIGNED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CFARS AND PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CANADA (PS&EPC). CFARS CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT MISSION BY:

A. PROVIDING CFARS CAPABILITIES TO FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE ORGANIZATIONS AND TO TRAIN WITH DND REGULAR AND RESERVE UNITS.

B. PROVIDING A RELIABLE POOL OF TRAINED AND EQUIPPED CFARS AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS AND STATIONS FOR MESSAGE TRAFFIC HANDLING.

Are you up to date with your HARC membership dues?

Yearly rates are as follows:

Full = \$25 Associate = \$15
Family (2 members) = \$35 + \$10
for each additional family member
at same address (only 1 newsletter)

The HARC Reflector is also available on the web (a little after the paper copy) courtesy of Rob Ewert, VE1KS, by connecting to www.halifax-arc.org

A college student challenged a senior citizen, saying it was impossible for their generation to understand his. "You grew up in a different world," the student said. "Today we have television, jet planes, space travel, nuclear energy, computers..."

Taking advantage of a pause in the student's litany, the geezer said, "You're right. We didn't have those things when we were young; so we invented them! What are you doing for the next generation??"